

PHILADELPHIA'S FIRST EMERGING 200 CLASS GRADUATES

On January 8, 2009, the SBA's Philadelphia District Office joined other Federal and local officials at a graduation ceremony recognizing Philadelphia-area small business owners who completed Philadelphia's first ever Emerging 200 class.

Emerging 200 is a pilot SBA training initiative that immerses participants in an intensive and condensed 13-week MBA-like curriculum to enhance their business knowledge and experience.

Speakers at the January 8 ceremony offered congratulatory remarks and insights into the ever-vital role of small business to the long-term success of Philadelphia's economy. Speakers at the ceremony included:

- *Sandy K. Baruah, then-Acting Administrator, U.S. SBA,*
- *Stephanie Watkins, then-Regional Director, U.S. SBA Region 3,*
- *David Dickson, District Director, U.S. SBA Phila. District Office and*
- *Kevin Dow, Deputy Director for Neighborhood and Business Services Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development & Director of Commerce for the City of Philadelphia.*



SBA Philadelphia District Office Director David Dickson addresses Philadelphia's Emerging 200 class.

The graduation ceremony marked the class' completion of formal classes on business strategy, financial analysis, and marketing. In these classes, participants learned to view their own businesses from a management perspective, crafting long-range business plans, as well as practical ways to meet their new goals.

"Perhaps at no time in its economic history has this city been more hungry for the kind of educated business leaders that the Emerging 200 Initiative provides," said David Dickson, Director of the SBA's Philadelphia District Office. "Through their time-tested business ownership and their performance in the Emerging 200 classroom, Philadelphia's Emerging 200 class has demonstrated the type of business acumen and commitment that can help sustain Philadelphia's business community through these trying economic times and well into the future."

Following their formal graduation from the Initiative, Philadelphia's Emerging 200 participants will continue to attend sessions on government contracting and financing. The participants will also benefit from a structured post-graduation follow-up through the Initiative, to include pairing each participant with a mentor to monitor and assist their progress.

- Philadelphia's Emerging 200 class included:
- *Aardvark Pest Management, Inc.,*
- *China Power & Light, Inc.,*
- *CKG Architects,*
- *Clinton Street Bed & Breakfast,*
- *Friday Architects/Planners, Inc.,*

- *Glasstoration Technologies, LLC ,*
- *J. Cabot Catering,*
- *K.I.A. Design and Construction,*
- *Leahy Caregivers, Inc.*
- *Loughner and Associates, Inc.,*
- *M. Davis & Co., Inc.,*
- *Pamela Gallo Consulting,*
- *Parts Life, Inc.,*
- *Quintessence Multimedia,*
- *Top of the Clock,*
- *Untra Corp.,*
- *Urban Harvest Partnership, LLC,*
- *Veyko, Inc. and*
- *W.P. Cooke.*

The instructor of the Philadelphia E-200 Initiative classes was Elizabeth Hechtman. She is a local Philadelphia area Business Coach. In her role as Philadelphia's E-200 instructor, Ms. Hechtman was a sub-contractor for Inner City Entrepreneurs ("ICE"), a Boston-headquartered business development program.